

HEALTH
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DORKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

of the



M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and of

T H E S E N I O R S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

for the year

1951

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DORKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

Cyrus Ive, M.B.,B.S.(Lond.)M.R.C.S.(Eng.),L.R.C.P.(Lond.)D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

D. Allan. M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

C.F. Packham. M.S.I.A.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff

Senior Clerk: C.H. Argent.
Shorthand/Typist: Mrs. F.I. Holt.
Telephonist: Miss M.E. Hamper.

Senior Sanitary Inspector's Clerk

R.N. Jamieson

Rodent Operator

G. Anscombe.

(The Medical Officer of Health and his Clerical Assistants act in a similar capacity for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, the Urban District of Leatherhead and the Rural District of Dorking and Horley)

Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

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Public Health Department,
West Hill House,
West Hill,
Epsom.

October, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking Urban District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit an Annual Report for the year 1951, which has been prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 42/51. Under the same cover will be found the Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The first section of my report deals with the vital statistics for the area. The most noticeable item in it is the sharp fall in the number of births, bringing the birth rate to its lowest figure since the unsettled year of 1941. The death rate shows an increase, which is smaller than might have been expected when the hard weather of the first quarter of the year is remembered. The notification rate of Puerperal Pyrexia is high, the explanation for this being that the maternity section of the Dorking District Hospital takes in cases from several of the surrounding districts, and any fever occurring in these is notified and the notification retained in this area. The birth notification, on the other hand, is transferred to the district of residence, thus lowering the figure on which the percentage is calculated. In all other respects the figures are satisfactory.

The number of illegitimate births accredited to the district was 21, the percentage of illegitimate live births to total live births being 7.7. As a comparison, the percentage in recent years for the County of Surrey has been about 4.5. The reason for the high local figure is to be found in the presence in the district of a hostel for unmarried mothers, to which people in need of help are admitted from a wide area.

With regard to infectious diseases, for the fourth year in succession no case of diphtheria was reported and there was a considerable fall in the number of cases of scarlet fever. Epidemics of measles and whooping cough occurred in all parts of the district. Reports on controlled trials in the use of whooping cough vaccines suggest that there are materials now available which give reliable results in the prevention or attenuation of this disease. It is anticipated that the Surrey County Council, as local health authority, will soon include whooping cough in its schemes of immunisation.

It is a pleasure to record once again the able assistance which I have received from your Senior Sanitary Inspector and his department. I wish to thank the Council, and particularly the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, for their consideration.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE YEAR 1951

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)...	...	...	...	9,511
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	15,204
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	20,252
Population (estimated mid-year 1951)	...	...	...	20,020
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books at 31st December, 1951	...	...	...	5,377
Rateable value at 31st December, 1951	...	...	...	£205,677
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£830

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Total live births	273	128	145	Birth rate per 1,000 population
Legitimate	252	118	134	
Illegitimate	21	10	11	
				13.6

<u>Still Births</u>				
Total still births	7	5	2	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births
Legitimate	6	5	1	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
				25.0

<u>Deaths</u>	(net)	257	116	141	Crude death rate	
						12.8

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age

Total infant deaths	7	3	4
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births 25.6

Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 27.8

Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births -

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age (Neonatal deaths)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	5	3	2
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Maternal Mortality

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (Live & still) births</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	-	-
Abortion	2	7.1
Other Maternal Causes	1	3.6



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Deaths from:-

	<u>Deaths</u>
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Neoplasm (Cancer etc.)(all ages)	41

Table I shows a comparison of the vital statistics of the year for the district with those of England and Wales.

Table II shows a comparison of birth, death and infant mortality rates for the district since 1931, with the figures for England and Wales during the same period.

BIRTHS

Live births numbered 273, of which 128 were males and 145 were females, representing a birth rate of 13.6 per 1,000 population. A comparability factor (1.00) has been supplied by the Registrar General allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, for use when comparing the local rate with those of other districts. The rate is the lowest to be recorded since 1941.

Seven still births were registered during the year, giving a still birth rate of 0.35 compared with a rate of 0.36 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

DEATHS

Deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 257, representing a crude death rate of 12.8 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, compared with the figure of 12.5 for England and Wales. The total includes 116 males and 141 females. A comparability factor (0.84) has been provided by the Registrar General which may be applied to the crude death rate for use in comparing the local death rate with those of other areas. The factor makes allowance for the differing age and sex distribution of local populations and when applied to the rate for this district reduces it from 12.8 to 10.8. The causes of death are set out in Table III. Diseases of the circulatory system were given as the cause of approximately half the total number of deaths. Deaths from all forms of cancer increased from 28 in the previous year to 41, and cancer of the respiratory tract from 3 to 13.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 7, of which 3 were males and 4 females. Five of the deaths occurred within 28 days of birth, and of these 3 occurred within 1 day. Two deaths were due to prematurity, three to congenital defects, one to asphyxiation during delivery and one to asphyxiation caused by the inhalation of vomited food.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

It is regrettable to report that 3 deaths of women occurred in connection with pregnancy. One death resulted from the anaesthesia required in making an instrumental delivery, and two were the result of septic abortions.

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories available to medical practitioners are situated at the East Surrey Hospital, Redhill, and St. John's Hospital, Redhill. Examinations of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases can be referred to the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council situated at West Hill House, Epsom.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The public ambulance service is under the control of the Surrey County Council, who have given the following information regarding the use of the service:-

The main ambulance station for the area is the Smallfields Section of the Redhill County Hospital (telephone Smallfield 271) with a sub-station at Dorking.

In accidents in the home or elsewhere or in any sudden illness in the streets and public places, any responsible person may call the ambulance to remove the patient (if by telephone use the local Emergency Calling System). Normal maternity cases will be removed if the applicant can give evidence that a maternity bed has been booked. Maternity cases with serious complications, or where birth is imminent, will not normally be moved without the authority of a doctor or certified midwife who should travel with the patient in the ambulance. The removal of other cases of illness or accident will be arranged by the hospital concerned or by the medical practitioner in charge of the patient. For private removals a written request accompanied by a doctor's certificate should be made to the County Medical Officer for his consideration. Provided that the requirements are fulfilled, no charge will be made to users.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

CARE OF MOTHERS, YOUNG CHILDREN ETC. - The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, ambulances and domestic help are the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority. Day-to-day administration has been delegated to the Southern Divisional Health Sub-Committee and its officers, with headquarters at Caberfeigh, Hatchlands Road, Redhill (Tel.No.Redhill 3206).

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox can be obtained from medical practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or on application at County Council Health Centres. Figures relating to the numbers treated will be found in Section 6 of this Report.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION'S CLINIC - A Branch of the Family Planning Association is active in the district. It provides a weekly clinic at the Redhill County Hospital with the consent of the Hospital Management Committee and the Medical Superintendent. The medical staff is appointed by the Association and is assisted by voluntary workers. The work of the Association is concerned with the teaching of contraception to married persons, and also with the investigation of sub-fertility.

Enquiries concerning appointments should be made to Mrs. Ryan, Little Abbots, Betchworth (Tel. Dawes Green 234).

A time-table of clinics available is set out below:-

Ante-natal Clinic	Dorking County Hospital	Friday 9.30.a.m.
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics	(1) S.C.C.Clinic, Dene St. Dorking. (2) Brockham Homes, Brockham (Voluntary) (3) The Reading Room, Westcott. (4) The Brodie Hall, Box Hill (5) Village Hall, North Holmwood.	Mons. & Weds. 2 - 4 p.m. 1st & 3rd Fridays at 2 p.m. 2 & 4 Mondays at 2 p.m. 2 & 4 Weds. at 2.p.m. 1 & 3 Thurs. at 2.p.m.
General School Medical Minor Ailments Clinics	S.C.C.Clinic, Dene St. Dorking.	Tues. 9.30.a.m.-12 noon.
Dental Clinic	"	By appointment
Eye Clinic	"	By appointment
Tuberculosis Dispensary	"	1 & 3 Fridays 10.0.a.m.
Family Planning Association Clinic	Redhill County Hospital.	Tuesdays 6-7.30.p.m.
Scabies Treatment Clinic	Dorking County Hospital. Out-patients Department.	By appointment
Venereal Diseases Clinics	Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. Redhill County Hosp. Earlswood Common.	<u>Males.</u> Tues.& Fri. 5 - 7 p.m. <u>Females.</u> Mons. 2-7.p.m. Thurs. 9.30-11.a.m. <u>Males.</u> Mons. 5-7.p.m. <u>Females</u> Weds. 5-7.p.m.

(And at the Out-patient Departments of many London Hospitals)

CARE OF THE ELDERLY
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951

Section 47 of this Act gave power to local authorities to take steps to deal with persons suffering from chronic illness or infirmity, who for one reason or another are not receiving proper care and attention, and who are unable to manage for themselves. As might be expected, the majority of these are old people, who, in addition to physical illness, have some loss of mental power sufficient to curtail their reasoning powers but not serious enough to require their admission to hospitals for mental illness. There is a tendency for some of these old people to cut themselves off from relatives and friends and to refuse all help, and the conditions in which they live may reach a deplorable state of neglect before it is realised by relatives or neighbours that the matter should be reported to the Medical Officer of Health or to the Welfare Officer. Removal to hospital or other institution is by then a matter of some urgency to safeguard the invalid's life and to permit the cleaning of filth and rubbish from the existing accommodation.

Under the 1948 Act, power was given to the local authority to apply to the Magistrates Court for an Order to obtain the compulsory removal, for a period not exceeding three months, of a person found in such conditions. As the result of experience, it was found that the time taken to comply with the legal requirements of the Act in obtaining an Order for compulsory removal was so long that the practical value of the powers given by the Act to local authorities was curtailed. An amending Act which came into force in 1951 enables authorities to adopt a more expeditious procedure in cases requiring urgent attention.

No proceedings under Section 47 of the Act were taken during the year.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA
 WATER

There are two companies which undertake the supply of water to the district. Mickleham, Boxhill and Brockham are supplied by the East Surrey Water Company, and the remainder of the area by the Dorking Water Company.

The bulk of the water supplied by the East Surrey Water Company is obtained from borings into chalk at Purley, Kenley and Leatherhead. Before distribution it is softened by the addition of lime and dechlorinated after an adequate period of contact. The methods of purification in use are adequate to deal with any possible pollution which might occur.

The Dorking Water Company obtains its water from a series of fifteen wells situated a little to the south of the Pippbrook stream shortly before it reaches the western outskirts of Dorking. The boreholes extend to a depth of 130 feet into the Folkestone beds, from which the water is siphoned to a reservoir at the works. After chlorination it is pumped into covered service reservoirs.

The district is fortunate in the adequacy of its water supplies.

Reports on 13 samples of the Dorking Water Company's supply were received, all of which were satisfactory.

As the East Surrey Water Company supplies the areas of several local authorities, a system of sampling in rotation has been so arranged that a sample of the supply is taken at weekly intervals throughout the year.

As will be seen by the following figures, the great majority of houses are provided with a piped water supply delivered internally:-

Dwelling-houses supplied by wells	3
" " " " Standpipes	21
" " " " piped main supply	5,528
" " " " piped private supply	3
" " " " other means	3

As reported previously, there are several camp sites in the district where, owing to the housing shortage, caravans and temporary structures are being permanently occupied. The water supply in all these cases is from the mains, delivered through standpipes situated at various distances from the dwellings.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection continued on a weekly basis in the town area, and fortnightly in the outlying villages.

Disposal, until September, was partly by incineration at the Council's Destructor and partly by tipping at abandoned sewage works at Westcott and North Holmwood. By September fortunately, the formalities and preparatory work in connection with the site in a disused chalkpit off Limeway Terrace were completed, and controlled tipping on this site took the place of the previous methods of disposal.

The tip for old iron in Ranmore Road, mentioned in last year's report, was covered in, and no further complaints of nuisance were received.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There are two sewage disposal works within the area, situated at Pixham Lane and at Brockham. The Pixham Lane works deal with sewage from Dorking, Mickleham and Westcott, and consist of settling tanks, filters and humus tanks, the effluent being discharged into the River Mole. Sludge is disposed of on the lower slopes of Box Hill, to which it is forced by compressed air through pipes from the works.

Extensions to the works were started in August, 1951, and the work was still in progress at the end of the year.

The Brockham works deal with sewage from Brockham, North Holmwood, and adjacent points of the Dorking and Horley Rural District. They consist of detritus tanks, settling tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks, the effluent being discharged into the River Mole. Urgent consideration is being given to the problem of how best to deal with the ever increasing volume of sewage which reaches these works and overloads their capacity.

Further serious trouble arose from the chemical effluent which, as previously reported, was being discharged into the Brockham sewers from premises outside the area. Foul smells were emitted from sewer vents, manhole covers which were not perfectly sealed, and at the works themselves. The Engineer and Surveyor, by sampling and investigations in co-operation with the Rural District Surveyor, proved beyond doubt the source of the nuisance, and the firm concerned have been asked to render their effluent innocuous, and also, in view of the volume of discharge, to control the times of discharge to the Council's sewers.

The problem of cesspools in the Box Hill area remains the same, and the Council continues to cope with the demands on the cesspool emptying service and to prevent serious nuisance. Occasionally, during busy week-ends, a cesspool may overflow and no action can be taken until the Monday, but no service can be expected to provide against every possibility.

The disposal of the vehicle contents had to be changed again, a still longer journey - back to Pixham Lane Sewage Works - having to be undertaken, as it was found that owing to the rather septic nature of the matter to be dealt with, the practice of discharging into manholes at the head of lengths of the Brockham sewers resulted in nuisance from smells arising from ventilating shafts near dwelling houses.

CAMP SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Sites in respect of which licences were issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising their use for moveable dwellings, numbered 13.

In addition, licences to erect or station and use a moveable dwelling were issued in respect of 5 such dwellings, situated on pieces of land other than licensed sites.

My last Report mentioned the co-operation with the County Planning Department in connection with four sites in the Box Hill area. During the year the owner of the largest of these sites submitted his proposals to the Local Planning Authority, and received their approval. As there were many permanent caravan residents on the land, although it is hoped that eventually it will revert to holiday use only, the standard conditions referred to in the 1951 Report were applied, with minor modifications following agreement with the officers concerned. By the end of the year, although some re-arrangement of caravans had taken place to comply with the lay-out approved by the Local Planning Authority, no real progress had been achieved with regard to the provision of ablution blocks.

Conditions on one of the other three sites showed slow but steady improvement, but in the case of the other two the position remains the same as before.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year, 42 inspections of shops were made. The conditions found and action taken are shown in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report, which also contains details of the record of all shops in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

Three privately owned pools were open to the public during the summer months. The Sanitary Inspectors made 36 visits and took 29 samples of the water for bacteriological examination.

Two of the pools are fitted with automatic chlorinating plants and all the laboratory reports on the 10 samples taken from each of these indicated no coliform bacilli present per 100 ml.

The third pool is a small one, and has no chlorinating plant. The water from the pool outlet flows down to a sand filter. After passing through this it is pumped by a small pump back to the inlet. Chloros is added by hand.

On the nine samples taken from this source three laboratory reports showed no coliform bacilli per 100 ml., and two had a coliform content of 1 per 100 ml., but faecal coli were absent. All these five were bacteriologically satisfactory. Two others were reported as being reasonably satisfactory, one of them having 3 coliform bacilli per 100 ml., with no faecal coli, the other 1 coliform bacillus per 100 ml., - of the faecal type. Two samples revealed inadequate chlorination, one containing 3 faecal coli per 100 ml., the other 20 coliforms per 100 ml., 1 being faecal.

The Sanitary Inspectors went to considerable trouble in giving advice to the owner of this pool. It is hoped that next season will show consistently better reports.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was necessary during the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act, which replaced the Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928, came into operation on the 1st November, 1951.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector notified the occupiers of the six premises known to have previously used rag flock for their business purposes, and informed them of the requirement of the Act. As a result, two applications were received and approved for the registration of premises for the use of filling materials to which the provisions of the Act applied.

SCHOOLS

No action was necessary during the year.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

The Council's Rodent Operator also deals with bed-bugs and other insect pests, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who gives full details of the year's work.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

(1) Inspections for purposes of Provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	16	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	89	30	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers) premises)	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	108	33	-	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	2	-

(3) The factories in the register are classified as follows:-

	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>
Aerated Water	1	-
Agricultural Engineers	3	-
Bacon Curing, coffee grinding, etc.	1	-
Bakehouses	9	1
Boat Repairs	6	-
Brickmaking	1	-
Builders, Engineering and Joinery	6	4
Cable Making	1	-
Cleaning and Pressing	3	1
Clothiers	3	2
Coach Building	2	-
Cooker and Meter Repairs	1	-
Cork Processing	1	-
Crumpets	1	-
Electricity Generating Station	1	-
Engineering (General)	5	-
Firewood	1	-
Fish Curing	-	1
Flour Mills	1	-
Flushing Appliances	1	-
Furriers	1	-
Gas Works	1	-
Ice-cream and confectionery	1	-
Lampshades, etc.	1	-
Laundries	2	-
Leaded Window Manufacture	-	1
Monumental Masons	-	1
Motor Vehicle Repair	12	1
Paper Baling	1	-
Printing	4	-
Provender Mills	2	-
Radio Engineers	4	1
Sausage Manufacture	5	-
Sheet Metal	1	-
Tent Making	1	-
Timber and Fencing	1	-
Upholsterers, etc.	1	3
Watch Repairs	2	-
Wire Processing	1	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Full details of premises visited, defects or nuisance discovered, and the action taken under the appropriate legal provisions will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, with the results obtained.

The year's statistics in connection with housing are set out below.

The position regarding repairs is still most unsatisfactory, largely because of present day costs and their effect on the reasonableness of the expense which might be involved. If routine house-to-house inspections were resumed, with a view to the service of Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, there is no doubt that we should be faced by a large number of cases in which it would be improper to serve notice as the cost of carrying out necessary works would not be reasonable. The alternative, however, - action under Section 11 of the Act, would add considerably to the already overburdened list of families needing Council houses.

Quite an appreciable amount of work was done during the year, however, not only as the result of informal or statutory action by the Sanitary Inspectors, but also by owners, of their own volition.

The ten dwelling houses stated below to be unfit for human habitation include eight cottages in respect of which the Council accepted an offer from the owner to carry out works. Demolition Orders were made in respect of the other two, and one of the houses was demolished following the re-housing of the occupants, while in the case of the other the operation of the Order has been deferred until it is possible to deal with adjoining premises. In the meantime, however, the tenant has been re-housed.

The ten houses demolished include, in addition to the house mentioned in the previous paragraph, the nine in Dene Street which have been empty and derelict for about two years. In addition another Dene Street house was dealt with as a dangerous building.

I. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health of Housing Acts)	103
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	484
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	20
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	85
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	72

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	37
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III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

- A. Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
 - (a) by owners 3
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owner Nil
- B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 37
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) by owners 27
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners 4
- C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 10
- D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which the Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil

IV. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:

As in previous years the figures of new cases of overcrowding are obtained from the Sanitary Inspector's visits to housing applicants.

227 of these visits were made during the course of the year.

Cases found during the last six years may be summarised as follows:-

				Part houses, rooms, Whole houses during etc., during			
				1946/50	1951	1946/50	1951
Overcrowded by	$\frac{1}{2}$	unit		250	34	40	4
"	"	1	"	114	25	38	2
"	"	$1\frac{1}{2}$	units	46	17	9	1
"	"	2	"	22	3	10	6
"	"	$2\frac{1}{2}$	"	6	1	7	3
"	"	3	"	2	-	5	-
"	"	$3\frac{1}{2}$	"	2	-	-	1
"	"	4	"	1	-	-	1
"	"	5	"	-	-	1	-
"	"	6	"	-	-	1	-
				<u>443</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>18</u>

Housing (contd) IV.- Overcrowding.

The cases of overcrowding known to be abated - by re-housing of sub-tenants or by improved circumstances through their own efforts, are as follows:

		Part houses, rooms, etc., during		Whole houses during	
		1946/50	1951	1946/50	1951
Overcrowding abated					
abated by	$\frac{1}{2}$ unit	142	19	12	1
"	1 "	67	12	14	2
"	$1\frac{1}{2}$ units	36	5	4	-
"	2 "	16	1	3	2
"	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "	4	-	2	-
"	3 "	1	1	2	-
"	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "	4	-	-	-
"	6 "	-	-	1	-
		<u>270</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>5</u>

REHOUSING

During the year 33 new Council houses were completed and occupied. This makes a total, to the end of 1951, of 248 built since the end of the war.

Fifteen houses were built by private enterprise, and 3 other units were made available by the conversion of a large empty house.

At the end of the year 50 families were still housed in premises requisitioned and converted by the Council. Of the 20 ex-army huts formerly reported, 12 were still occupied, 8 having been demolished or removed after the rehousing of the occupants.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Council's duties with regard to milk are now limited to the registration of distributors and dairies, with the enforcement of the relevant parts of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, the licensing of those who sell designated milk, either raw or heat treated, in the district, under the appropriate Special Designations Regulations, and the important function of sampling the various milk supplies, as a routine part of their work for the safeguarding of public health.

As mentioned in my last Report there is now a modern pasteurising plant in the district, and although the licensing authority is the Surrey County Council, the Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as the agent of the County Medical Officer for the purpose of inspection, supervision, sampling and making recommendations as to licensing.

In addition, pasteurised milk is available from four sources outside the Urban District.

MILK SAMPLES

During the year 164 samples of milk retailed in the Urban District were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors, and the summary of results is given below:

1. Undesignated Milk

No. of samples	Methylene Blue Satisfactory	Reductase Test Unsatisfactory	Within Accredited Standard	
			No.	%
6	6	-	6	100

2. Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples	Methylene Blue Reductase Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satis:	Unsatis:
127	126	1	126	1

3. Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Reductase Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satis:	Unsatis:
23	23	-	23	-

Despite investigations at the plant, carried out in conjunction with the plant manufacturers, no explanation could be found for the failure on the phosphatase test for Pasteurised Milk. It was thought that there might have been an air lock followed by a sudden surge of milk which had caused some splashing over of incompletely treated milk.

In addition to the above-mentioned samples, 10 samples of raw undesignated milk were submitted for biological examination. The results in all cases were negative.

Milk sold under Special Designations

The following licences for the sale of undesignated milks, granted by the Dorking Urban District Council, were in operation during the year:-

(a) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealer's licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk 6
Supplementary licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk 2

(b) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealer's licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk 6
Dealer's licence to sell "Sterilised" milk 4
Supplementary licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk 2
Supplementary licence to sell "Sterilised" milk 1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Senior Sanitary Inspector's report contains information regarding the inspection of animals after slaughter at a private slaughterhouse, and details of unsound food surrendered and destroyed.

ICE-CREAM

The ice-cream samples taken by the Sanitary Inspectors are listed in Mr. Allan's report. It will be noted that the system of provisional grading, based on the result of the methylene blue reductase test, still operates.

FOOD HYGIENE

As previously reported, the Public Health Committee received a suggestion from the Senior Sanitary Inspector that lectures should be given to food handlers to make them fully aware of their responsibilities and of the care needed. The Committee felt that to arrange lectures was of little use until the probable response was known, and accordingly instructed the Senior Sanitary Inspector to ascertain what support would be given to a series of lectures on food hygiene

Food Hygiene (contd)

The opportunity arose in connection with the visit of a Central Office of Information film unit to show films on this subject. A circular was issued to every premises which dealt in any way at all with foodstuffs. The response was very poor indeed.

This seems to bear out the opinion which the Council's officers have expressed on several occasions - viz. that in this district the best results are achieved by the routine visits of the Sanitary Inspectors, who take the opportunity of emphasising the need of hygienic conditions while talking to managers and staff.

The details of the premises connected with food, contraventions found, and action taken, are listed in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report, but even these reflect only the result of written intimations. In addition a considerable amount of work was done on verbal requests.

It will be appreciated, I am sure, that this work forms only part (although an important one) of the sanitary inspectors' work. They cannot always be in food premises to ensure that the food handlers avail themselves of the facilities provided for hand washing, nor to check on their methods, but if members of the public who see anything to which they take exception will express their dissatisfaction at the time they see it, to the employee or manager concerned, it would probably be one of the most effective means of showing the trade that the public does expect hygienic service.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the administrative authority for the sections of the Food and Drugs Act dealing with adulteration. Information has been received that during the year 87 samples were taken in this district for chemical analysis, and that during the same period 1,868 samples were taken within the administrative area of the County.

Of those taken in this district, 65 were of milk, 3 each of sausages and peel, and 2 each of sausage meat and synthetic cream. The remainder comprised miscellaneous articles of foodstuff. Six samples were found to be adulterated or deteriorated, including 2 of milk, 1 of tomato juice, 2 of sausages and 1 of sausage meat. Court proceedings were taken in two of these cases and convictions obtained.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1951, classified according to age and sex.

SMALIPOX - No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

SMALLPOX CONTACTS - Two passengers from s.s. Strathmore came to stay in the district after the ship had docked from a voyage in which a case of smallpox had occurred. Both had been vaccinated before disembarkation. Daily visits or enquiries were made to ascertain the state of health of each of these possible contacts, who were otherwise permitted full freedom of movement.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX - During the year notifications were received from general practitioners of 230 primary vaccinations and 110 revaccinations performed by them. Included in these are 110 vaccinations done on children before they had reached the age of one year, equivalent to approximately 40% of the number of births taking place during the year. The comparative figure for 1950 was 30%. Some of the increase, particularly in revaccination, can be attributed to the alarm caused by the smallpox epidemic in Brighton early in the year.

SCARLET FEVER - Two notifications of scarlet fever were received during the year, as against 53 in the previous year. Both cases were nursed at home. The notification rate per 1,000 population was 0.10 compared with 1.11 for England and Wales.

DIPHTHERIA - For the fourth consecutive year no case of diphtheria was notified in the district. The notification rate for England and Wales was 0.02 per 1,000 population.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - Active immunisation against diphtheria has now been in operation in the district since 1935 and can claim a part in the reduction of the incidence and mortality rates which has occurred. The aim is for every child to receive a primary treatment of two injections at about the age of nine months, with secondary treatment consisting of single injections at every 3 to 4 years up to the end of school life to reinforce the original treatment. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

Treatment can be obtained from general practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or from clinics arranged by the local health authority, these being held at regular intervals at all Health Centres serving the district. Notifications were received during the year that 208 children received primary treatment and 811 received reinforcing doses.

FOOD POISONING - No case of food poisoning was notified during the year. The incidence rate was 0.13 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (Infantile Paralysis)
One case was notified the boy affected being admitted to hospital with paralysis of the forearms and hands. After a lengthy spell of treatment a good recovery was obtained, though with some residual weakness of the legs.

The notification rate was 0.05 per 1,000 population, compared with the rate of 0.03 for England and Wales.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA - Twelve notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received during the year, being from the maternity section of the Dorking County Hospital. The notification rate for puerperal pyrexia was 42.86 per 1,000 live and still births compared with 10.66 for England and Wales. A reason for the high local rate is the fact that the hospital admission area extends for a considerable distance outside the urban district, and that a proportion of the maternity patients are selected for admission because of abnormal conditions likely to cause difficult confinements with subsequent rise of temperature in the puerperium. Eight of the patients notified were normally resident outside the Dorking Urban District.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM - During the year 1 notification of ophthalmia neonatorum was received from the Dorking County Hospital.

WHOOPING COUGH - The number of notifications was 71 compared with 11 in 1950. The case rate was 3.55 per 1,000 population against 3.87 for England and Wales. No death occurred from the disease.

It is the intention of the County Council to extend its scheme of immunisation against infectious diseases to include whooping cough, limiting the treatment to infants and toddlers.

MEASLES - Four hundred and two notifications of measles were received during the year, giving a case rate of 20.08 per 1,000 population compared with the rate of 14.07 for England and Wales. No death occurred from the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS - At the end of the year the tuberculosis register contained the names of 69 men and 46 women, who have been notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 15 men and 24 women suffering from the non-pulmonary form of the disease. The total of 154 exceeds that of 1950 by 1.

During the year the names of 18 local residents were added to the register, 12 suffering from disease of the lungs and 6 of other parts. There were also added the names of 5 persons who moved into this district during the year, having been notified previously elsewhere.

During the same period 22 names were removed, 14 because of removal elsewhere, 6 because of recovery, and 2 because of death. Both deaths were due to the pulmonary form of the disease, giving a death rate of 0.10. There was no death from the non-pulmonary form of disease. The total death rate for both forms of disease for England and Wales was 0.31 per 1,000 population.

An analysis into the types of disease, sex and age groups of the new additions to the register is to be found in Table VI.

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN
DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL
MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1951

	England and Wales	Dorking Urban District
<u>Rates per 1,000 Population</u>		
<u>BIRTHS</u>		
Live Births	15.5	13.6
Still Births	0.36	0.35
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All Causes	12.5	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	-
Whooping Cough	0.01	-
Diphtheria	0.00	-
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.10
Influenza	0.38	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.00	-
Pneumonia	0.61	0.35
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	-
Meningococcal Infections	0.03	0.05
Scarlet Fever	1.11	0.10
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.55
Diphtheria	0.02	-
Erysipelas	0.14	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	-
Measles	14.07	20.08
Pneumonia	0.99	0.20
Acute Poliomyelitis and Paralytic	0.03	0.05
Polioencephalitis Non-Paralytic	0.02	-
Food Poisoning	0.13	-
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>		
Deaths under 1 year of age	29.6	25.6
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	1.4	3.7
<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</u>		
Notifications (corrected) of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	10.66	42.86
<u>Maternal Mortality:</u>		
Puerperal Sepsis	0.10	-
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	0.24	-
Abortion	0.14	7.1
Other Maternal Causes	0.31	3.6

Period	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 Population. (Annual Rates 1941-1951)		Average Annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population. (Annual Rates 1941-1951)		Average Annual Death Rate of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births. (Annual Rates 1941-51)	
	England and Wales	Dorking Urban District	England and Wales	Dorking Urban District	England and Wales	Dorking Urban District ‡
1931-1940	14.9	14.4	12.2	12.2	58	31.0
1941	14.2	13.0	12.9	13.0	59	34.9 (11)
1942	15.8	16.7	11.6	12.8	49	30.4 (10)
1943	16.5	16.7	12.1	13.5	49	44.6 (14)
1944	17.6	20.5	11.6	13.9	46	42.0 (16)
1945	16.1	15.0	11.4	12.4	46	17.6 (5)
1946	19.1	18.3	11.5	11.3	43	16.6 (6)
1947	20.5	18.7	12.0	11.7	41	28.7 (11)
1948	17.9	16.2	10.8	11.1	31	22.0 (7)
1949	16.7	16.8	11.7	14.9	32	36.4 (12)
1950	15.8	16.3	11.6	12.2	29.8	18.6 (6)
1951	15.5	13.6	12.5	12.8	29.6	25.6 (7)

‡ Bracketed figures represent number of deaths.

TABLE IV

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Under 1 year		1 - 2		3 - 4		5 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64		65 years & over		All ages		Total all ages both sexes
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Typhoid Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Polio-myelitis (Paralytic)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Polio-myelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malaria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	3	2	35	28	54	41	105	115	5	6	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	206	196	402
	5	1	6	11	8	9	13	12	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	34	37	71	



TABLE V

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE DORKING URBAN DISTRICT 1934 - 1951

Year	No. of cases Notified	Incidence rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Deaths	Mortality rate per 1,000 Population	Immunisation. No. of primary treatments in each year
1934	1	0.06	-	-	-
1935	4	0.24	1	0.06	116
1936	19	1.14	2	0.12	32
1937	4	0.24	-	-	124
1938	2	0.12	1	0.06	53
1939	4	0.22	2	0.11	238
1940	3	0.15	-	-	124
1941	3	0.14	-	-	700
1942	1	0.05	-	-	637
1943	1	0.05	-	-	690
1944	-	-	-	-	288
1945	1	0.05	-	-	344
1946	-	-	-	-	234
1947	1	0.05	-	-	267
1948	-	-	-	-	294
1949	-	-	-	-	233
1950	-	-	-	-	239
1951	-	-	-	-	208

TABLE VI

NOTIFICATIONS OF, AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

	Primary notifications relating to persons resident in the Dorking Urban District				Secondary notifications of persons already notified in other districts and now resident in the Dorking Urban District				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	3	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 to 45	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	10	2	2	4	4	1	-	-	2	-	-	-

URBAN DISTRICT OF DORKING

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1951

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Council Offices,
Pippbrook,
Dorking.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual Report on the work of your
Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1951.

Once again the Report is largely a summary of matters
which have been reported at Public Health Committee meetings
from time to time.

The complaints received totalled slightly more than in
the previous year. The heavy winter rains in the early months
caused some problems of a rather complicated nature, as the
subsoil became saturated and surface water drains revealed
faults which, in more normal weather, would not have become
obvious.

No special attention was devoted to camp sites during
the period under review, though periodic visits were made to
ensure freedom from nuisance.

It can be said, I think, that the year was mainly
spent in routine work - work which is a necessary part of the
Council's environmental hygiene service, but which, by its
nature, is little known or recognised by the public as a
composite whole, although some have knowledge of various
aspects of it by reason of their contact with us on specific
points.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee, Dr. Ive and my colleagues for
their help, co-operation and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

D. ALLAN

Senior Sanitary Inspector

INSPECTIONS AND REINSPECTIONS

The number of visits and inspections carried out during the year is summarised below:-

General Sanitation

Water Supply	6
Drainage	182
Fried Fish Shops	2
Stables and Piggeries	1
Hotels and Public Houses	5
Tents, Vans and Sheds	310
Factories with mechanical power	30
Factories without mechanical power	3
Workplaces	1
Outworkers	1
Bakehouses	20
Dustbins	119
Refuse accumulations	9
Rats and Mice (visits by Rodent Operator)	
Treatments	8,461
Survey	115
Schools	2
Shops	42
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	991
Camp Sites	35
Wasps Nests	201
Swimming Pools	36
Ant Infestations	1
Rag Flock Act, 1951	1
Unsuccessful visits	262

Housing

<u>Under Public Health Acts:</u>	
No. of houses inspected	83
No. of reinspections	399
<u>Under Housing Acts:</u>	
No. of houses inspected	20
No. of reinspections	85
<u>Verminous Premises:</u>	
No. of houses inspected	5
No. of reinspections	10
Miscellaneous Housing visits	227

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of infectious diseases	7
Visits re disinfection	4
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	6

Meat and Food Inspection

<u>Inspection of Meat</u>	
Visits to slaughterhouses	34
Visits to shops and stalls	45
Visits to other premises	14
<u>Visits to:</u>	
Butchers	55
Fishmongers and Poulterers	6
Grocers	223
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	1
Farms	4
Dairies and Milkshops	93
Ice-cream Premises	33
Food Preparing Premises	289
Market Stalls	3
Restaurants	34
Street Vendors	55

Meat and Food Inspection (contd)

Visits in connection with sampling:

Milk - Bacteriological	157
Milk - Tubercle Bacilli	3
Water - Bacteriological	35
Ice-cream - Bacteriological	14
Miscellaneous Food visits	42
	<u>12,822</u>

NOTICES ISSUED AND ACTION TAKEN

The Notices served and the results of such action are given in their respective categories, but the total summary (excluding action taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938) is as follows:-

Preliminary

Outstanding on 1st January, 1951	40
Issued during the year	118
Complied with during the year	64
Cancelled during the year	5
Statutory Action necessary	57
Outstanding on 31st December, 1951	32

Statutory

Outstanding on 1st January, 1951	17
Issued during the year	68
Complied with during the year	46
Cancelled during the year	2
Action in default taken	10
Outstanding on 31st December, 1951	27

COMPLAINTS

Five hundred and eighty-three complaints were received from the public as follows:-

Dampness, defective roofs, etc.	67
Defective floors and woodwork	4
Flooded cellars and basements	8
Drainage of houses	27
Rats and Mice	183
Unsound Food	110
Defective dustbins	41
Ants	2
Beetles	4
Woodworm	5
Mosquitoes	2
Bugs	4
Wasps Nests	96
Miscellaneous	30
	<u>583</u>

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED, NUISANCES ABATED ETC.

The inspection of dwelling houses, etc., and consequent action resulted in the following conditions being found and remedied.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Rooms requiring plastering	16	19
Damp walls	17	9
Defective eavesgutters	18	12
Defective Rainwater pipes	9	8
Defective roofs	42	40
Defective chimneystacks	24	19
Defective brickwork	9	8
Defective drains	20	18
Defective yard surfaces and passages	3	3

Defects found and remedied etc.,(contd)

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Flooded cellars	5	5
Defective water supply pipes	4	2
Defective w.c. cisterns	7	5
Defective water closets	7	6
Defective w.c. seats	2	2
Defective fireplaces and hearths	7	8
Defective kitcheners and ovens	2	2
Defective washboilers	3	2
Defective floors	17	13
Defective window frames	25	22
Defective sashcords and fasteners	16	16
Defective sinks and wastepipes	5	4
Defective sink wastepipes	1	1
Defective doors	1	1
Defective stairtreads and risers	1	1
Defective ashbins	39	37
Defective cesspools	2	2
Overflowing cesspools	2	2
Defective external wall boarding	4	-
Accumulations of refuse	5	3

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH DURING THE YEAR
AND NOTICES OUTSTANDING AT 31st DECEMBER, 1951

(1) Housing Act, 1936

No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1951	3
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1951	1
No. of Preliminary Notices served	8
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	2
No. of Statutory Notices served	3
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	3
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1951	6
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1951	1

(2) Public Health Act, 1936

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Other Premises</u>	<u>Dust-bins</u>
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1951	23	2	7
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1951	11	-	4
No. of Preliminary Notices served	62	2	39
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	36	2	19
No. of Preliminary Notices Cancelled	-	-	5
Statutory Action necessary	37	-	17
No. of Statutory Notices served	48	-	17
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	31	-	12
No. of Statutory Notices cancelled	1	-	1
Action in default taken	4	-	6
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1951	14	2	5
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1951	23	-	2

Defects found and remedied etc.,(contd)

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Flooded cellars	5	5
Defective water supply pipes	4	2
Defective w.c. cisterns	7	5
Defective water closets	7	6
Defective w.c. seats	2	2
Defective fireplaces and hearths	7	8
Defective kitcheners and ovens	2	2
Defective washboilers	3	2
Defective floors	17	13
Defective window frames	25	22
Defective sashcords and fasteners	16	16
Defective sinks and wastepipes	5	4
Defective sink wastepipes	1	1
Defective doors	1	1
Defective stairtreads and risers	1	1
Defective ashbins	39	37
Defective cesspools	2	2
Overflowing cesspools	2	2
Defective external wall boarding	4	-
Accumulations of refuse	5	3

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH DURING THE YEAR
AND NOTICES OUTSTANDING AT 31st DECEMBER, 1951

(1)

Housing Act, 1936

No. of Preliminary Notices oustanding	
at 1st January, 1951	3
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding	
at 1st January, 1951	1
No. of Preliminary Notices served	8
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	2
No. of Statutory Notices served	3
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	3
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding	
at 31st December, 1951	6
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding	
at 31st December, 1951	1

(2)

Public Health Act, 1936

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Other Premises</u>	<u>Dust-bins</u>
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding			
at 1st January, 1951	23	2	7
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding			
at 1st January, 1951	11	-	4
No. of Preliminary Notices served	62	2	39
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	36	2	19
No. of Preliminary Notices Cancelled	-	-	5
Statutory Action necessary	37	-	17
No. of Statutory Notices served	48	-	17
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	31	-	12
No. of Statutory Notices cancelled	1	-	1
Action in default taken	4	-	6
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding			
at 31st December, 1951	14	2	5
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding			
at 31st December, 1951	23	-	2

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Meat inspected at time of slaughter

The result of meat inspection at premises licensed as a slaughterhouse, but used only for dealing with self-suppliers' pigs and "casualty" animals, is set out below in the form required by the Minister.

Carcases inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	4	2	64
Number inspected	-	-	4	2	64
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	1	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	-	-	-	50	3.1
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	3.1

(b) Meat (inspected in shops) and other Foods:

Examination revealed that the following foodstuffs were unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

	No.	Tins.	Bottles & Jars	Weight				
				Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Beef: English	-	-	-	-	2	1	22	8
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	-
Pork	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	-
Offal	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
Mutton and Lamb	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	8
Fish	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	-
Fish Cakes	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12
Bacon and Ham	-	-	-	-	1	1	25	11
Cheese	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Fats	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8
Cereals	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-
Flour	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Meat Pies	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12
Puff Pastry	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-
Poultry	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
Sweets	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	8
Tinned Hams	-	-	-	1	2	2	12	15
Canned Meat	-	-	-	-	16	1	26	-
Canned Milk	-	317	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canned Vegetables	-	907	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canned Soup	-	1553	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canned Fruit	-	1094	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bottled Fruit	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-
Canned Fish	-	4148	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preserves	-	15	18	-	-	-	-	-
Savouries	-	1	12	-	-	-	-	-
Pickles and Sauces	-	141	16	-	-	-	-	-
Synthetic Cream (Cartons)	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biscuits & Cheese (Pkts)	612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fruit Squash	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Eggs	1056	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1779	8176	84	2	13	2	16	8

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods (contd)

One consignment of tinned hams contained so large a proportion of tins which were not blown, but in an early "springer" stage, that sample tins were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

The report was as follows:-

"Ham - Cultures yield a scanty growth of faecal coliform bacilli only.

Jelly-Cultures yield a heavy growth of faecal and non-faecal coliform bacilli and sporing aerobic bacilli.

These organisms do not belong to the food-poisoning group but may have caused deterioration of the tin contents".

In a consignment of bacon received at a wholesaler's premises where smoking is carried out, a number of sides were badly discoloured. As there appeared to be some risk of the bacon having been carried in vehicles which had formerly carried acid it was thought advisable to submit a sample and get a report from the Public Analyst rather than give an immediate decision that the bacon was unfit or fit, as the first might have resulted in unnecessary wastage, and the alternative in ill-effects to anyone consuming the affected parts.

The Public Analyst reported as follows:-

"The samples comprised:

A. Bacon. A large cut measuring about 10" x 7" x 3½" on which was stamped POLAND No 208

B. A piece of coarse wrapping in which the side of bacon had been transported.

Both the wrapping and the bacon exhibited large areas of discolouration, that on the wrapping being yellowish-brown in colour and that on the bacon being very dark brown to black.

In addition to the main area of stain on the outside of the bacon there were streaks of discolouration running down from this area indicating a liquid contaminant as being the cause. The spread of stain on the wrapping was also indicative of a liquid having dropped or splashed on to the outside and soaked through to the bacon.

The contamination of the bacon had penetrated beneath the skin into the fat, causing discolouration of varied hues from red to bluish green. In one or two places this discolouration penetrated to a depth of nearly ½".

Investigation into the cause of the discolouration of both specimens showed that iron or compounds of iron were the responsible agents. The wrapping and outer skin were heavily contaminated, the differences in colour being due to the iron having formed compounds with the natural substances in the skin and fat, and with the artificial substances introduced by the curing process. A further cause of the different colours is due to the iron being present in different stages of oxidation.

Iron is undoubtedly the principle cause of the trouble in this case and there is no evidence of any significant amount of contaminant. As to the source of the iron, it is suggested that the drip caused by the sweating of iron surfaces and pipes, which is highly charged with iron and its oxidation compounds, might easily have been responsible here. The briny nature of bacon would encourage the penetration of more soluble compounds into the fatty layers.

Although the actual discolouration of the fats had nowhere penetrated to a very great depth, traces of iron had infused still further into the unblemished layers. As the upper discoloured layers are cut away these traces of iron became oxidised by exposure to air and slight discolouration of the fat occurs. This later discolouration is intensified by boiling.

In my opinion there is nothing in this contamination to cause alarm and if the badly discoloured layers of fat or lean are cut away the traces of iron remaining would be quite harmless. On the other hand, as indicated in the preceding paragraph, further discolouration might occur after trimming, leading to complaints. It is suggested therefore that where the fat is heavily contaminated it should be trimmed away to a depth of one inch, or preferably the whole of the fat layer should be removed at these spots.

The lean bacon is not normally close to the areas of contamination, but there is no evidence that any portions so affected would require trimming much beyond any obvious discolouration".

I think that the report fully justified the action taken and the Analyst's advice was followed.

(c) Ice-cream

Sixteen samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:-

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Reductase Test</u>		<u>Coliform Test</u>	
	<u>Provisional Grade</u>			
1.	I		Coliforms	absent
2.	I		"	"
3.	I		"	"
4.	I		"	"
5.	I		"	present
			Faecal coli	absent
6.	I		Coliforms	absent
7.	I		"	"
8.	I		"	present
			Faecal coli	absent
9.	I		Coliforms	absent
10.	I		"	"
11.	II		"	"
12.	III		"	present
			Faecal coli	absent
13.	II		Coliforms	present
			Faecal coli	absent
14.	I		Coliforms	absent
15.	I		"	present
			Faecal coli	absent
16.	I		Coliforms	present
			Faecal coli	absent

Details of unsatisfactory reports on samples were forwarded to the district where the ice-cream was produced, so that investigations could take place.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The register of food premises now includes the following which are analysed under trade headings and show classes of food sold. In some cases one business may be allocated under two headings:-

Catering Establishments	51
Confectioners (Cakes, pastries etc)	17
Bakehouses	10
Retail Grocers, etc.	45
Butchers	16
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	20
Wholesale Grocers	1
Wholesale Greengrocers	1
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	8
Bacon smoking factory	1
Sausage factory	5
Mineral Waters	1
Vegetarian Stores	1

PREMISES IN RESPECT OF WHICH NOTICES OF CONTRAVENTION WERE SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE ACT

(a) Informal Notices of contravention

	Brought Forward	Served	Complied With	Outstanding at 31st December, 1951
Restaurant Kitchens	1	7	1	7
Bakehouses	Nil	2	Nil	2
Butchers	1	Nil	Nil	1
Grocers	2	5	1	6
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	1	Nil	Nil	1
<u>(b) Formal Notices</u>				
Grocers	1	Nil	Nil	1

CONDITIONS FOUND TO REQUIRE SERVICE OF NOTICES AND THE RESULTS OF SUCH ACTION UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE ACT

	Brought Forward	Found	Remedied	Outstanding as at 31st December, 1951
Sanitary conveniences and ashbins in or communicating with room.	1	1	1	1
Walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors not kept in proper state of repair.	1	6	Nil	7
Redecoration required	12	12	1	23
Floors inadequately cleansed	1	1	1	1
Utensils kept in dirty condition	Nil	2	Nil	2
Hot and cold water supply required	5	3	Nil	8
Lack of towels	4	Nil	1	3
Insufficient washbasins	3	1	2	2

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year 42 visits were made. The Register of Shops now totals 323 premises (including licensed premises) as set out below. Each of these is classified under the main heading of goods sold:

Antiques	5
Baby Wear	2
Boots and Shoes	22
Butchers	15
Car Sales	2
China and Glass	3
Chemists	9
Confectionery (Cakes and Pastries, etc)	17
Corn and Seed	2
Decorator's Sundries	2
Drapers and Haberdashers	6
Dyers and Cleaners	9
Electrical and Radio	5
Fancy Goods	3
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	3
Florists	2
Furnishers	6
Furriers	1
General Stores	15
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	12
Grocers	34
Hairdressers	14
Ironmongers and Hardware	7
Jewellers	4
Leather Goods	1
Licensed Premises	46
Milk Shops	2
Model Engineering	1
Music Shops	2
Newsagents and Stationers	15
Opticians	4
Outfitters	20
Pet Food Shops	1
Photographic	4
Sewing Machines	1
Tobacco and Confectionery	16
Toys, Cycles and Prams	4
Vegetarian Stores	1
	<u>323</u>

The following conditions were found to require the service of notices:

Premises with defective w.c. cistern	1
Premises without adequate heating	1

Neither of these conditions were remedied by the end of the year, although the necessary orders had been given.

The position regarding service of Notices is as follows

Number of Preliminary Notices outstanding	
at 1st January, 1951	Nil
No. of Preliminary Notices served	2
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	Nil
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding	
at 31st December, 1951	2

MILK AND DAIRIES

No alterations were made to the register last year, the position remaining as under:-

Distributors with premises within the Urban District	10
Distributors whose premises are outside the District	4
Dairies	5

CAMP SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The inspection of camp sites and moveable dwellings was limited this year to routine visits with a view to the remedy of any nuisances which might be found and to note any cases of non-compliance with licence conditions.

No further detailed investigations were carried out on the lines reported last year as it seemed desirable to see first what action the Surrey County Council, as Local Planning Authority, would take. Dr. Ive has described the position in respect of the four sites surveyed last year. I can only add that the rearrangement which took place resulted in a number of protests from occupiers whose premises adjoined the site in question, and several interviews with disgruntled caravan dwellers whose vans were being moved to different parts of the site.

PEST CONTROL

This section of the work is sometimes regarded rather disparagingly by some members of the public - those who have had no cause, so far, to call upon the service provided.

It is, however, an important feature of public health work, not only from the aspect of prevention of damage and waste of foodstuffs through the activities of rodents, but because of the general mental and physical benefits derived by those who ask us to deal with their problems occasioned by rodent and insect pests.

Some insects are well known as carriers of disease, others can cause acute discomfort, and as part of the service dealing with environment hygiene, the prevention of these pests is not only justifiable and desirable, but also essential.

The Council is fortunate in having as Rodent Operator (who also treats insect infestations) a man who is most conscientious and thorough in all his work. It is gratifying to be able to record that many messages of appreciation are received during the course of each year from ratepayers who have appreciated the work he has done.

RATS AND MICE

The summary of the year's work is as follows:

No. of complaints received from public	183
No. of inspections and re-inspections by Rodent Operator	8,576
No. of treatments still in hand 31/12/50	43
No. of treatments completed by Rodent Operator during the year	496
No. of treatments still in hand 31/12/51	47
Estimated number of rats killed by poison baiting (using Ministry of Agriculture formula)	2,641

Rats and Mice (contd)

The return made to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of the Urban District was as follows:-

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (incl. Business & Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	10	5365	30	368	5773
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise	(a) 4	145	2	29	180
	(b) 5	344	8	16	423
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	Major	1	-	1	2
	Minor	8	340	1	362
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	1	24	-	21	46
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the Local Authority	9	365	1	35	410
6. No. of Notices served under Section 4. (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. No. of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Legal Proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	65				

2. INSECT PESTS

(a) Bed-bugs

Three bedrooms in each of two Council houses were treated by spraying with an insecticide containing D.D.T. In addition, two rooms were similarly treated in a requisitioned flat.

(b) Swallow or House-martin bugs

The occupier of a large private house asked for advice and any necessary treatment to deal with what appeared to be an infestation of bed-bugs in the principal bedroom. One of the occupants had received one or two bites. On inspection it was found that numbers of these insects, identical with fairly young bugs in size, shape and colouring, were on the south-west internal wall, near the windows. Under the eaves above the outside of the windows were several swallows nests. Closer examination revealed that the insects were coming from these nests, which on removal were found to contain large numbers. The walls were treated with insecticide.

Specimens were submitted to the Natural History Museum at Kensington for identification, and the report was that the insect was the swallow or house-martin bug, *Oeciacus Hirundinis*, which will enter houses, but not establish itself there, and will bite humans, though not complete its life cycle on human blood.

The interesting feature about the case was that nests on other walls were not infested - apparently the warm, sunny aspect was the main factor.

Swallow or House-martin bugs (contd)

About a fortnight after this case I received a complaint from a new house at Brockham about "viciously biting insects". In this case, I found that the tenant's wife was being very badly bitten when in bed at nights, but her husband and daughter seemed to be immune. The insects could be seen on the walls in daytime, and appeared to be a type of very small mite, dark in colour. When killed the resultant blood mark was larger than from a bug. These, too, were found to be coming in from swallows nests under the eaves. Insecticide was sprayed on inner and outer walls.

(c) (c) Common and German cockroaches

Infestations dealt with during the year occurred in two private houses, one hotel, one Benevolent Institution, and the Dorking County Hospital. The last-named premises, in respect of which the Council receives an annual payment for maintenance treatment, was visited on 28 occasions. The rooms treated, usually kitchens or rooms nearby, generally numbered between two and five per visit.

(d) Red Ants (Pharoah's Ant).

Our help was sought in dealing with infestations of this pest in three premises. In one case - the kitchen of a Benevolent Institution - clearance was effected after two treatments. In the second instance - the canteen of a large office - five treatments were carried out, the first two by using insect powder, and the next three by spraying with a liquid insecticide. A sixth and final treatment was given, using Thallium Sulphate in poisoned bait.

The infestation in the third case - a private nursing home - was wide-spread and had not been completely overcome by the end of the year. During the period under review, however, twenty-one visits were made, and rooms varying in number from two to fifteen received treatment. For a start, insecticide powder was used, then liquid, while on the last eleven visits poisoned bait was used, Thallium Sulphate being the poison, and the bait base alternating between carbohydrate and protein - cake for the former, meat and fish for the latter.

(e) Garden Ants - During the contract treatment of the Dorking County Hospital infestations were dealt with in five rooms.

(f) Wasps - One hundred and twenty-nine wasps nests were dealt with during the year. In every case where it was at all possible to remove and destroy the nest after treatment this was done. Where removal was not possible revisits were made and retreatments carried out until it was certain that the nests were inactive.

(g) Mosquitoes - Two ponds were sprayed with Larvicide to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

(h) Flies - By agreement with the Education Authority four school canteens and the Central Kitchen, which prepares school meals for distribution to those schools which have no canteen kitchen of their own, were sprayed with insecticide as a measure of fly prevention.

In addition the British Restaurant kitchen was sprayed for the same purpose.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year seven visits of enquiry were carried out in respect of infectious diseases.

